

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2284.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

SBA WOMEN'S BUSINESS PROGRAMS ACT OF 2007

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2397) to reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2397

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "SBA Women's Business Programs Act of 2007".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Sec. 101. Annual studies on problems hindering the success of women entrepreneurs.

Sec. 102. Additional progress reports.

TITLE II—WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS

Sec. 201. Revised funding formula.

Sec. 202. Matchmaking formula change.

Sec. 203. Termination of funding.

Sec. 204. Women's business center awards to be made public.

TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN'S BUSINESS COUNCIL

SEC. 101. ANNUAL STUDIES ON PROBLEMS HINDERING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.

Section 409 of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7109) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following:

"(b) PROBLEMS HINDERING THE SUCCESS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.—The Council shall conduct at least one study per year that evaluates the problems hindering the success of women entrepreneurs. The Council shall select the topic for the study in consultation with the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate."

SEC. 102. ADDITIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS.

Section 406(d)(4) of the Women's Business Ownership Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7106(d)(4)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "; and on a biannual basis (notwithstanding paragraph (6)) submit to the President and to the Com-

mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report containing a description of, and the status of, such initiatives, policies, programs, and plans".

TITLE II—WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTERS

SEC. 201. REVISED FUNDING FORMULA.

Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

"(b) AUTHORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may provide financial assistance to private non-profit organizations to conduct projects for the benefit of small business concerns owned and controlled by women. The projects shall provide—

"(A) financial assistance, including training and counseling in how to apply for and secure business credit and investment capital, preparing and presenting financial statements, and managing cash flow and other financial operations of a business concern;

"(B) management assistance, including training and counseling in how to plan, organize, staff, direct, and control each major activity and function of a small business concern; and

"(C) marketing assistance, including training and counseling in identifying and segmenting domestic and international market opportunities, preparing and executing marketing plans, developing pricing strategies, locating contract opportunities, negotiating contracts, and utilizing varying public relations and advertising techniques.

"(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide assistance under paragraph (1) in three tiers of assistance as follows:

"(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-year project in a situation where a project has not previously been conducted. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$150,000 per year.

"(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier project is being completed. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$100,000 per year.

"(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier project is being completed. Such a project shall be in a total amount of not more than \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants are renewable subject to established eligibility criteria as well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

"(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available for assistance under this subsection, the Administrator shall allocate—

"(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier projects under paragraph (2)(A);

"(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects under paragraph (2)(B); and

"(C) the remainder for third-tier projects under paragraph (2)(C).

"(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the community and on the performance of the applicant. The benchmarks shall include—

"(A) the total number of women served by the project;

"(B) the proportion of low income women and socio-economic distribution of clients served by the project;

"(C) the proportion of individuals in the community that are socially or economically disadvantaged (based on median income);

"(D) the future fundraising and service coordination plans;

"(E) the diversity of services provided; and

"(F) regional distribution within the 10 districts of the Administration."

SEC. 202. MATCHMAKING FORMULA CHANGE.

Section 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(A) For the first and second years of the project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.

"(B) Each year after the second year of the project—

"(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar; or

"(ii) if the center is in a community at least 50 percent of the population of which is below the median income, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars."

SEC. 203. TERMINATION OF FUNDING.

Section 29(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(5) TERMINATION.—An organization that has conducted a project under this subsection—

"(A) is not eligible to conduct another such project; and

"(B) may continue thereafter to use the women's business center logo only with the consent of the Administrator."

SEC. 204. WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER AWARDS TO BE MADE PUBLIC.

Section 29(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V)) is amended by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "; and make available to the public the award made to each applicant so selected".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, there is no question that the face of small business is changing in this country. Women entrepreneurs now account for 50 percent of all small business owners and are growing at a phenomenal rate. The SBA Women's Program Act of 2007, sponsored by Congresswoman FALLIN, works to enhance opportunities for women by increasing access to in-depth outcome-oriented counseling and training. It strengthens SBA's Women's Business Centers to ensure that they continue to serve the important role of assisting small business owners.

While many have taken advantage of the services Women's Business Centers offer, not all budding entrepreneurs are getting the resources they need to successfully start and own a business. A significant gap exists between the

number of women in our country and those involved in entrepreneurship, particularly in certain industry sectors.

Representative FALLIN's legislation will increase the reach of Women's Business Centers to help develop entrepreneurship, particularly in underprivileged areas. By setting standards, it ensures that those who want to start their own firms have quality support and training resources available. The increased research that this bill requires will make sure that challenges currently impacting women are identified and addressed.

The SBA Women's Procurement Act of 2007 builds on the strong track record of Women's Business Centers. The expansion of these centers has the potential to spur economic growth in disadvantaged communities and to even move impoverished women from welfare to entrepreneurship.

I strongly support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2397, the SBA Women's Business Programs Act of 2007. I would like to thank Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ for working in a cooperative and bipartisan manner to bring this bill, authored by Ms. FALLIN, a freshman member of the committee, to the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. FALLIN).

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member CHABOT for their support for this legislation and also in helping to build a strong bipartisan coalition in the Small Business Committee.

This bill, the SBA Women's Business Act of 2007, will strengthen the Women Business Centers program that was established in 1997 by making it more efficient and more accountable. The Women's Business Centers are a very important part of the grant programs that are funded by the Small Business Administration. Today, Women's Business Centers all across the country are providing women entrepreneurs with much-needed technical assistance in starting and operating their own small businesses.

In the mid-1990s, the Federal Government began awarding grants to Women's Business Centers that were operating as nonprofit organizations in conjunction with institutions of higher learning. Originally, these grants were intended to be awarded to business centers in their first 5 years with the understanding that after the first 5-year period had ended, the center would be financially self-sustaining.

Although many Women's Business Centers did meet this goal, some have not for a variety of reasons. As a re-

sult, a greater percentage of the funding for this program has been consumed by the operating costs of potentially unviable centers rather than the intended purposes of establishing new business centers. The result is a drag on the system and viable business centers that are not truly serving an unmet need in their communities. This jeopardizes the effectiveness in the viability of the entire program.

The SBA Women's Business Programs Act of 2007 will restore the original priorities held by the Federal Government when this program was created. By offering a three-tiered system of funding and lower caps on spending for older business centers, we can ensure a balanced percentage of funding is used to support both new and existing business centers.

The first tier requires that at least 40 percent of the total funds be reserved for the purpose of establishing and supporting new Women's Business Centers during their first 5 years of existence. The second tier will use 20 percent of the total funds to help sustain the centers that have successfully existed during their first 5 years.

Lastly, the third tier will use a maximum of 40 percent of the funds to continue supporting centers that have existed for 8 years or more and have met the necessary benchmarks set forth by the SBA to receive this funding. This three-tiered system will offer a helping hand to newly established centers while slowly weaning the older centers off the dependency of the Federal grants.

It is important to realize that this legislation does not affect the overall funding level of this program. Rather, it rearranges the distribution of funds to reflect the original intention of these grants, an offer of temporary assistance rather than one of permanent dependency on the Federal Government.

This legislation will ultimately restore accountability and efficiency to a program that, while well intentioned, has become weighed down by inefficiency. These are goals that every Member of Congress can all support. The SBA Women's Business Programs Act of 2007 has passed in the Small Business Committee with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I want to encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of this today.

Mr. DAVID DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the small business face in America is changing. We have more and more women who would like to get involved in opening and starting their businesses, and the bill that we have before us as sponsored by Representative FALLIN does just that.

It promotes opportunity for women by increasing access to business counseling and training through the devel-

opment of the Women's Business Center. This will better enable women to have flourishing enterprises and help to spur job creation and economic development across this Nation. I urge adoption of this bill.

Mr. SESTAK. Mr. Speaker, as a husband, a father of a young daughter, the proud brother to 6 sisters, and having served alongside dedicated women in the military, I have seen firsthand the role that women play in economically strengthening American society. And this is why I rise today to support H.R. 2397, the SBA Women's Business Programs Act of 2007.

Despite their significant contributions, women who work full time, year round, still only make 77 cents for every dollar made by their male counterparts, and women business owners, particularly those from socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds, face significant challenges resulting from inadequate community resources. Such resources include lack of access to capital, training resources, and networks of assistance.

Today, women-owned firms are one of the fastest growing, successful small business sectors. The number of women-owned firms has increased at nearly double the rate of all firms, and those with socially and economically disadvantaged backgrounds have grown at twice the rate of their counterparts and 6 times the rate of all U.S. firms. As the number of women entrepreneurs grows, particularly those from underserved communities, I believe it is critical that women have adequate and appropriate resources to prepare them for success in the marketplace. To that end, H.R. 2397 proposes to expand the agency's commitment to the Women's Business Centers (WBCs).

WBCs provide in-depth, substantive, and outcome-oriented counseling, training and mentoring, resulting in substantial economic impact as measured by successful business start-ups, job creation and retention, and increased company revenues. They also provide financial, management, and marketing assistance to women small business owners.

H.R. 2397 supports the growth of women small business owners by expanding entrepreneurial development assistance, particularly in low-income areas. The legislation dedicates funding to the opening of new WBCs in underserved areas, while implementing new benchmarks to ensure centers that continually receive funds are meeting performance requirements. These metrics, which include information on clients served and fundraising plans, will help to preserve resources for centers that have demonstrated success helping women entrepreneurs while promoting the expansion of assistance centers into underserved areas.

H.R. 2397 is important legislation which promotes economic security for America's women, and I urge all my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2397, the Small Business Administration Women's Business Programs Act of 2007. I commend my colleague from Oklahoma (Ms. FALLIN) for introducing this important legislation to reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Most notably H.R. 2397 would authorize the SBA Administrator to provide financial assistance to private nonprofit organizations to conduct projects for the benefit of small businesses owned and operated by women. The bill notes that such projects shall provide, among other things, financial assistance, including training and counseling on how to apply for and secure business credit and investment capital, preparing and presenting financial statements, and managing cash flow and other financial operations of a business concern; management assistance, including training and counseling in how to plan, organize, staff, direct, and control each major activity and function of a small business; and marketing assistance, including training and counseling in identifying and segmenting domestic and international market opportunities, preparing and executing marketing plans, developing pricing strategies, locating contract opportunities, negotiating contracts, and utilizing varying public relations and advertising techniques.

H.R. 2397 would also direct that the National Women's Business Council (NWBC) conduct at least one study per year that evaluates the challenges hindering the success of women entrepreneurs, and mandates that NWBC select the topic for the study in consultation with the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate.

Support for this legislation will help Congress fulfill its commitment to ensuring that women owned and operated small businesses are able to access the resources and training they may require in order to achieve success. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2397.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2397.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1900

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 2563, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 151, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 233, by the yeas and nays.

The postponed votes on S. 1352, H. Con. Res. 21, H.R. 2359 and H.R. 2284 will be taken tomorrow.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

MAJOR SCOTT NISELY POST OFFICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2563, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2563.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 386, nays 0, not voting 46, as follows:

[Roll No. 499]

YEAS—386

Ackerman	Cuellar	Hastings (WA)
Aderholt	Culberson	Hayes
Akin	Cummings	Heller
Alexander	Davis (AL)	Hensarling
Allen	Davis (CA)	Herger
Altmire	Davis (IL)	Herseth Sandlin
Arcuri	Davis (KY)	Higgins
Baca	Davis, David	Hill
Bachmann	Davis, Lincoln	Hinchey
Bachus	Davis, Tom	Hinojosa
Baird	Deal (GA)	Hirono
Baker	DeFazio	Hobson
Baldwin	DeGette	Hodes
Barrett (SC)	Delahunt	Holden
Barrow	DeLauro	Holt
Bartlett (MD)	Dent	Honda
Barton (TX)	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hooley
Bean	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoyer
Berkley	Dicks	Hulshof
Berry	Dingell	Inglis (SC)
Biggert	Doggett	Inslee
Bilbray	Donnelly	Israel
Bilirakis	Doolittle	Issa
Bishop (NY)	Doyle	Jackson (IL)
Bishop (UT)	Drake	Jackson-Lee
Blackburn	Dreier	(TX)
Blumenauer	Duncan	Johnson (GA)
Blunt	Edwards	Johnson (IL)
Boehner	Ehlers	Johnson, Sam
Bono	Ellison	Jones (NC)
Boren	Ellsworth	Jones (OH)
Boswell	Emanuel	Jordan
Boucher	Emerson	Kagen
Boustany	Engel	Kanjorski
Boyd (FL)	English (PA)	Kaptur
Boyda (KS)	Eshoo	Keller
Brady (PA)	Etheridge	Kennedy
Brady (TX)	Everett	Kildee
Braley (IA)	Fallin	Kilpatrick
Brown (SC)	Farr	Kind
Brown, Corrine	Fattah	King (IA)
Brown-Waite,	Feeney	King (NY)
Ginny	Ferguson	Kirk
Buchanan	Finer	Klein (FL)
Burgess	Forbes	Kline (MN)
Burton (IN)	Fortenberry	Knollenberg
Buyer	Fossella	Kucinich
Camp (MI)	Fox	Kuhl (NY)
Campbell (CA)	Frank (MA)	Lamborn
Cannon	Franks (AZ)	Lampson
Cantor	Frelinghuysen	Langevin
Capito	Gallegly	Lantos
Capps	Garrett (NJ)	Larsen (WA)
Cardoza	Gerlach	Larson (CT)
Carnahan	Giffords	Latham
Carney	Gilchrest	LaTourette
Castle	Gillibrand	Lee
Castor	Gillmor	Levin
Chabot	Gingrey	Lewis (CA)
Chandler	Gohmert	Lewis (GA)
Clarke	Gonzalez	Lewis (KY)
Clay	Goode	Linder
Cleaver	Goodlatte	LoBiondo
Clyburn	Gordon	Loebach
Coble	Granger	Lofgren, Zoe
Cohen	Green, Al	Lowey
Cole (OK)	Green, Gene	Lucas
Conaway	Grijalva	Lungren, Daniel
Cooper	Gutierrez	E.
Costa	Hall (NY)	Lynch
Costello	Hall (TX)	Mack
Courtney	Hare	Mahoney (FL)
Cramer	Harman	Maloney (NY)
Crenshaw	Hastert	Manzullo
Crowley	Hastings (FL)	Markey

Marshall	Petri	Slaughter
Matheson	Pickering	Smith (NE)
Matsui	Pitts	Smith (NJ)
McCarthy (CA)	Platts	Smith (TX)
McCarthy (NY)	Poe	Smith (WA)
McCaul (TX)	Pomeroy	Solis
McCollum (MN)	Porter	Souder
McCrery	Price (GA)	Spratt
McDermott	Price (NC)	Stark
McGovern	Putnam	Stearns
McHugh	Radanovich	Stupak
McIntyre	Rahall	Sutton
McKeon	Ramstad	Tancred
McMorris	Rangel	Tanner
Rodgers	Regula	Tauscher
McNerney	Rehberg	Terry
McNulty	Reichert	Thompson (CA)
Meek (FL)	Renzi	Thompson (MS)
Meeks (NY)	Reynolds	Thornberry
Melancon	Rodriguez	Tiahrt
Mica	Rogers (AL)	Tiberi
Michaud	Rogers (KY)	Tierney
Miller (FL)	Rogers (MI)	Towns
Miller (MI)	Rohrabacher	Turner
Miller (NC)	Ros-Lehtinen	Udall (CO)
Miller, Gary	Roskam	Udall (NM)
Miller, George	Rothman	Upton
Mitchell	Roybal-Allard	Van Hollen
Mollohan	Royce	Velázquez
Moore (KS)	Ruppersberger	Visclosky
Moore (WI)	Ryan (OH)	Walberg
Moran (KS)	Ryan (WI)	Walden (OR)
Moran (VA)	Salazar	Walsh (NY)
Murphy (CT)	Sali	Wamp
Murphy, Patrick	Sánchez, Linda	Wasserman
Murphy, Tim	T.	Schultz
Musgrave	Sarbanes	Waters
Myrick	Saxton	Watson
Nadler	Schakowsky	Watt
Napolitano	Schiff	Waxman
Neal (MA)	Schmidt	Welch (VT)
Neugebauer	Schwartz	Weldon (FL)
Nunes	Scott (GA)	Westmoreland
Oberstar	Scott (VA)	Whitfield
Obey	Sensenbrenner	Wicker
Olver	Serrano	Wilson (NM)
Ortiz	Sessions	Wilson (OH)
Pascarella	Shadegg	Wilson (SC)
Pastor	Shays	Wolf
Paul	Shea-Porter	Woolsey
Payne	Sherman	Wu
Pearce	Shuler	Wynn
Pence	Shuster	Yarmuth
Perlmutter	Simpson	Young (AK)
Peterson (MN)	Sires	Young (FL)
Peterson (PA)	Skelton	

NOT VOTING—46

Abercrombie	Graves	Reyes
Andrews	Hoekstra	Ross
Becerra	Hunter	Rush
Berman	Jefferson	Sanchez, Loretta
Bishop (GA)	Jindal	Sestak
Bonner	Johnson, E. B.	Shimkus
Boozman	Kingston	Snyder
Butterfield	LaHood	Space
Calvert	Lipinski	Sullivan
Capuano	Marchant	Taylor
Carson	McCotter	Walz (MN)
Carter	McHenry	Weiner
Conyers	Meehan	Weller
Cubin	Murtha	Wexler
Davis, Jo Ann	Pallone	
Flake	Pryce (OH)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1922

Mr. McNERNEY and Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.